



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

August 1, 2012

Dear Health Care Provider:

This letter is to notify you of **infant formula changes** that the Maryland WIC Program will implement as part of a new standard infant formula rebate contract beginning on October 1, 2012. Please note that Maryland WIC advocates breastfeeding as the optimal infant feeding choice, unless medically contraindicated. However, federal regulations require state WIC programs to enter into cost-containment contracts for the purchase of standard formula for infants who are not fully breastfed. Competitive bidding is used to award the contract to a manufacturer(s) for the exclusive right to provide infant formula in that state, in return for a rebate on each can of formula purchased by WIC participants. The rebates increase the funds available for providing WIC food benefits and the number of WIC-eligible women, infants, and children who can be served.

Effective October 1:

- Maryland WIC will continue to provide the **Similac** formula brands manufactured by Abbott Nutrition as the standard milk-based infant formula.
 - **Similac Advance**
 - **Similac Sensitive for Fussiness and Gas**
 - **Similac for Spit-Up**
- Maryland WIC will provide **Enfamil Prosobee** manufactured by Mead Johnson Nutrition as the standard soy-based infant formula.
- The toddler soy formula that WIC provides will be **Enfagrow Next Step Soy**, manufactured by Mead Johnson Nutrition.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes no difference between brands of standard infant formulas as all must meet strict government guidelines. Effective October 1, Maryland WIC will provide only the above standard infant milk- and soy-based infant formulas and the above toddler formula. **The Program will continue to provide specialty formulas (such as Nutramigen, Pregestimil, Similac Alimentum, Enfamil EnfaCare, Similac NeoSure) with appropriate medical documentation, regardless of the manufacturer.** A revised *Maryland WIC Program Medical Documentation Form* is enclosed for your use, beginning on October 1, to request specialized formulas, toddler formula, or other changes in the WIC food package due to a medical diagnosis. This form will be available in the Health Care Providers section of the Maryland WIC Program website www.mdwic.org.

Toll Free 1-877-4MD-DHMH – TTY/Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

Web Site: www.dhmh.state.md.us



Your cooperation in encouraging the use of WIC contract formulas for your WIC-eligible infants who need standard milk- and soy-based formulas enables the Maryland WIC Program to serve many more participants. We thank you for your support of the Program and your promotion and support of breastfeeding. If you have any questions, please call your local WIC agency, or the State WIC Program at 1-800-242-4WIC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jacqueline Marlette-Boras".

Jacqueline Marlette-Boras, MHS, RD, LDN

Director

Maryland WIC Program

Enclosure